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14 May 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chiefs, FBIS Field Bureaus
FROM: Chief, FBIS
SUBJECT: Letter of Instruction

GENERAL

1. Special services provided by FBIS during April included:

A. A report on world reaction to President Eisenhower's 19 March foreign aid message, prepared upon request of ONE and given special distribution.

B. A thrice-weekly roundup of comment on the Geneva meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe, carried on the B-wire for the Department of State.

C. Continuation of the special wire to Ambassador Johnson, U.S. representative at the Geneva talks with the Chinese Communists.

D. An 86-page supplement to the FBIS Daily Report, containing the full text of Kim Il.-song's report delivered in Pyongyang on the work of the Central Committee of the Korean Labor Party.

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2. Okinawa Bureau commenced teletype service to [redacted] on 26 April. The file is an extension of the service regularly transmitted to MAAG, Taiwan. [redacted]

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3. Deficiencies in FBIS economic abstract cards, including excessive backlogs in the Office of Personnel's typing pool, illegible cards, and delays in dissemination were the basis for an FBIS request to Management Staff to explore better means for reproducing these cards. The subject is now under study. [redacted]

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4. Saigon Bureau is studying equipment and personnel requirements for direct monitoring of the services which have been provided by the French, in the event of discontinuance of French monitoring in Saigon.

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5. Latin American cruising in Puerto Rico, by [redacted] 50X1
of West Coast Bureau, was terminated and the results are being evaluated. Indications are that the Navy station at Sabana Seca is inadequate for FBIS, although another Navy installation at Roosevelt Roads appears to offer better possibilities. A spot check of reception conditions at Quito, Ecuador, and Lima, Peru, is also being arranged through the Office of Communications, and further cruising may be undertaken in this area. [redacted] 50X1

6. Review of the complexities of conducting North, Central, and East African, and Turkish reception surveys in rapid sequence indicates that FBIS should limit its summer activities to resolution of the North African coverage problem, and planning is now on this basis, with the initial survey in Tangier in July. Essentially, FBIS does not have the staff, equipment, or knowledge to embark on the overall undertaking, and the results of the North African survey will have a definite bearing on what should next be done. [redacted] 50X1

7. Coverage of Radio Dersa, Tetuan, Spanish Morocco, by the 17th Air Force for FBIS during the past five months was terminated with the concurrence of OCI. A memorandum of appreciation to the Director of Intelligence, U.S. Air Force, was drafted. [redacted] 50X1

8. Two of Okinawa Bureau's six Korean monitors have been terminated for substandard performance. Only one replacement will be recruited, on the basis that a smaller but more capable staff can adequately handle Korean monitoring requirements. [redacted] 50X1

9. The Agency Director of Communications reported that the problem of FBIS message delay at ACAN Relay Points because of minor garbles was discussed in detail with Department of the Army Communications people, who are extremely reluctant to set up the proposed procedure. It was also reported that many ACAN stations will soon be equipped with automatic alarm systems which would render useless any instructions to disregard garbles, as the alarm would be subject to electronic rather than human control. Another factor, however, would work in favor of FBIS requirements. Automatic relay systems are due to be installed in several ACAN stations which will pass any traffic containing a perfect transmission heading. Under these conditions, no special handling of FBIS traffic would be necessary. [redacted] 50X1

10. Construction: [redacted] 50X1

A. Quonset houses in Okinawa were removed in preparation for the final phase of the Okinawa housing program.

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B. A contract was signed in Tokyo on 23 April for construction of four duplex houses at Chitose Air Force Base, Hokkaido. This construction should be completed about mid-July 1956, when the house will be turned over to the Air Force in exchange for continued FBIS occupancy of Air Force housing at Camp Crawford.

C. Extensive rehabilitation work on antennae at the Okinawa Bureau by the Army Signal Corps is in process.

11. Equipment:

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A. Austrian Bureau submitted estimates for erection of antenna masts, and procurement of a television receiver. Improvement in the antenna system will provide potential for backstopping German and Mediterranean Bureau's Satellite monitoring and improve Austrian Bureau's own reception. The television receiver should permit reception of Czech TV programs from the new high-powered TV transmitter at Bratislava. No action will be taken pending an Embassy decision on U.S. occupancy of the Allianz Building in Vienna.

B. Two Morse code--teletype converters for the West Coast Bureau were requisitioned. They will be placed in service in late 1956.

C. Eighteen Hammarlund SP-600-JL receivers, modified to cover the frequency ranges 100-400 kilocycles and 540 kilocycles to 14.8 megacycles, were requisitioned for the Mediterranean Bureau, from budgeted funds. They will eliminate the need for two receivers in most of the Mediterranean Bureau's monitoring positions.

D. Two Model 19 teleprinters and a Model 14 typing reperforator are being shipped to Saigon Bureau. This equipment will enable Saigon Bureau to prepare its own teletype tapes and speed its outgoing file.

12. Field bureau maintenance training of watch engineers has been inadequate. Domestic bureaus are required to rotate all their watch engineers through the maintenance engineer assignment on either a training or working basis once each calendar year. Overseas bureaus are required to so rotate each watch officer whose grade on the Watch Officer Qualification Report required by is "adequate" or better in maintenance ability. The latter should in each case be on a full-time working basis for a fraction of the year whose denominator is the number of watch engineers eligible for such rotation. Overdue qualification reports from field bureaus are also requested without delay.

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13. Records Management Staff completed a review of FBIS's records program and revised its records disposition schedules. FBIS is now officially responsible for custody of the permanent file of the FBIS Daily Report, and all bound volumes will be returned from Records Center to FBIS. [REDACTED]

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

1. All Bureaus

A. Although five of the last ten Letters of Instruction have included sections on the proper form for "Corrections," in the last few weeks there has been a rash of corrections in which the item is identified only by transmitter and date-time group. The Washington office is geared to handle complete corrections easily, but incomplete corrections require much time to handle. Field editors are therefore again instructed to check each correction for completeness before sending. A model correction follows: [REDACTED]

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L201810 CORRECTION

SULLIVANS L201704 BELGRADE TANYUG ENGLISH MORSE TO
NORTH AMERICA 201230 TITO INTERVIEW PAGE TWO GRAPH
TWO LINE FOUR MAKE READ XXX WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON
THE COURSE OF FUTURE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES
XXX CHANGING QUOTE WITH THE USSR UNQUOTE TO QUOTE WITH
THE UNITED STATES UNQUOTE FOLEY

B. All bureaus are cautioned not to file as regular copy marginal material containing economic data. Such data should be extracted in the field and filed as an FYI or Economic Brief. Attention of Mediterranean and Hokkaido Bureaus, particularly, is called to this request. [REDACTED]

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C. The following by the Chief, Technical Information Unit (FBIS Library) is of interest to all editors:

"Recently in going to the Biographic Information Division of State Department, we received many references to information from FBIS Daily Reports. Since we were trying to confirm information largely obtained from our own sources, I inquired as to the verification source, only to be told that in many cases our information is all they ever receive. This has been mentioned to me many

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times by phone from contacts who deal in economic matters in the Far East and USSR and Satellites as well as biographic and geographic material in the Mongolian area.

"The attached (a State message to Bogota requesting Colombian diplomatic list) is interesting in that when the representative from OCI called BI/State for information on the Colombian diplomatic corps, they were referred to us as having much more complete information than BI had."

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2. London Bureau

The guidance notes which indicated the order in which the various speeches were made at the workers meeting welcoming Bulganin and Khrushchev home, greatly facilitated processing of the material for the Daily Report. It is recommended that this practice be continued when a number of items are used to report the various parts of a single event.

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3. London and Mediterranean Bureaus

The Mediterranean Bureau's coverage of the Belgrade May Day parade was excellent and could serve as a model for handling future such occasions. The editor's notes remarking on the omission of military units and portraits of members of the elite were extremely pertinent and enhanced the value of the material. Other Satellite coverage from both bureaus was frequently too detailed, however, several reports included material which could more appropriately have been filed as economic briefs. In certain cases much space was given to reportage from the capitals of other countries when simple short summaries would have sufficed.

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4. Mediterranean and Hokkaido Bureaus

Results of a recent survey by FBIS editors of Soviet abstract consumers are attached as Appendix A. Among other things, the value of including the original Russian-language rendering in doubtful or ambiguous translations, particularly when dealing with technical or specialized materials was reemphasized. As an example, an "oil processing plant" referred to recently was found to be a vegetable oil plant processing detergents rather than petroleum. The inclusion of the original Russian wording in this instance was a valuable aid to consumers.

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5. Mediterranean Bureau

As filed by Mediterranean Bureau, an April broadcast from Tbilisi reported the awarding of various Orders of the USSR to certain old Bolsheviks, among which was the "Order of Stalin." Since this Order was unknown in Washington, it was carried in the Daily Report as "(Order of Lenin?)" and Mediterranean Bureau was requested to confirm the correctness of this designation. Mediterranean Bureau then replied that the original designation "Order of Stalin" was correct. On this basis, the Daily Report carried a correction to "Order of Stalin", and the FBIS "Trends and Highlights of Moscow Broadcasts" cited the new "Order of Stalin" as an instance of opposition in Georgia to the current "de-Stalinization" campaign. Several days later Mediterranean Bureau reported that "Order of Lenin" actually had been broadcast. This necessitated a second correction in the Daily Report. Such unnecessary embarrassment to FBIS could have been averted by the editor of the original item, had he questioned "Order of Stalin" and cleared up the matter before filing; or by the editor who submitted the false confirmation had he made sure the original recording was adequately rechecked before confirming. [redacted]

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6. Okinawa Bureau

A. Editors and Korean Monitors are commended for their exemplary handling of the 114-take full text of Kim Il-song's report on the work of the Central Committee of the Korean Labor Party. [redacted]

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B. Editors are reminded of a long-standing request that new and unfamiliar names be repeated when they first appear. Repetition of names such as ZHOB RPT ZHOB, which recently turned up in Karachi copy, would be very helpful, since checking can be difficult and time consuming. [redacted]

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C. Peking in Mandarin on 30 April carried a report on the National Congress of Outstanding Workers. This was handled by Okinawa as an Editorial Report, a quite suitable form. In the body of the Editorial Report, however, Liu Shao-chi was referred to as "Chairman of the CCP Central Committee." This was run on the B Wire. OCI then inquired about Liu's position, since his actual title had not been referred to publicly for several years, and Okinawa was asked to re-check. Okinawa replied, correcting Liu's title to read "Vice Chairman of the CCP Central Committee." Still not satisfied, the Daily Report editor asked for the text of the sentence in which this title was stated,

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Okinawa's reply reads in part: "None Rpt None of The Sentences in This Broadcast Refer to Liu Shao-Chi's Position In The Party Central Committee." It is suggested that in the future all material in an Editorial Report be taken from the broadcast itself and that nothing extraneous be included. Other related information should be sent as an FYI if necessary. [redacted]

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PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS COMMENT

1. Thoughtful FYI's from the bureaus always help round out the picture of Communist propaganda efforts and occasionally are utilized directly in Branch reports. Foley's 231300 on applause for passages of Shepilov's Lenin anniversary speech, Ham's 211746 about a Tbilisi Lenin exhibition containing letters to Stalin on collective leadership, and Sugimura's 160755 observing that current CPR propaganda no longer calls Chiang Kai-shek a "bandit" were particularly valuable. [redacted]

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2. Commentary list compilers are urged to indicate clearly whenever possible the major theme of each item. Please do not use verbs like remarks, says, notes, recalls and points out as synonyms for stresses; these do not convey the notion of a major theme but could refer to a single sentence or paragraph. Remember to indicate commentaries taken from newscasts by noting "in news" after the language. [redacted]

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3. The most ambitious Propaganda Report issued during the month examined nuclear stalemate and related concepts in Soviet Policy statements; others described the new prestige for France evident in Soviet propaganda and analyzed changes in Moscow's May Day slogans. Papers for limited distribution described world reaction to Eisenhower's foreign aid message, Moscow's use of sports victories in domestic propaganda, and North Korean propaganda themes. [redacted]

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4. The practice of coordinating certain forthcoming FBIS Propaganda Reports with the principal interested intelligence offices is continuing, and an OCI representative conferred with members of the Radio Propaganda Branch regarding its forthcoming study of Khrushchev's position in the deglorification of Stalin. [redacted]

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ADMINISTRATION (Unclassified)

1. The following FBIS issuances have not previously been reported:

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PERSONNEL CHANGES

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1. New Employees

Assignment

Editor,
Editorial Br.

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Editor,
Editorial Br.

Editor,
Editorial Br.

Clerk,
Admin. Staff

2. Transfers Within FBIS

From: To:

Librarian, Librarian,
Editorial Br. East Coast Bu.

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Clerk Typ. Librarian,
Admin. St. Editorial Br.

Editor, Editor,
Editorial Br. Austrian Bu.

Asst. Ch. Eng Asst. Ch. Engr.
Med. Bu. East Coast Bu.

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3. Transfers From FBIS:

From:

Multi-Monitor,
West Coast Bu.

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4. Separations:

From:

Prop. Anal. Officer,
Radio Prop. Br.

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✓ ALAN M. WARFIELD /

Attachment:
Appendix A

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Appendix AINDUSTRIAL REGISTER

11 April 1956

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The primary interest lies in economic abstract cards from all bureaus which are almost fully utilized. Only an estimated 2% are found to be not useful. (This figure probably applies to screened cards.) Pertaining to Hokkaido material it was stated unequivocally that it is a most important source of information and the wide use of economic cards in the various files were exhibited as evidence of current and extensive use.

In response to questions regarding the volume, it was stated that even more would be welcome. The quality was said to be quite good and even phonetic spelling was no bar to utility. If an emphasis could be pointed out, it was stated that generally the RSFSR area north of the Arctic Circle is a matter of great current interest, but that interest continues high for the Maritime and other Soviet Far East areas. Industrial Register is also interested in obtaining material which fills in on a local level the effects of the "new broom" of the 6th Five Year Plan.

A measure of criticism was voiced over the legibility and time lag of the economic cards, but they were assured that FBIS is currently undertaking measures to correct both matters. One or two instances of inaccurate cards were shown as illustrating a sometimes unfortunate misdirection of effort on the part of Industrial Register which went off on a "wild goose chase" stemming from a poorly translated FBIS item. At the same time, however, assurances were given that such cases are few and not a reflection on the general level of the cards.

The Daily Report is also scanned and utilized by Industrial Register.

ORR Panel Interviews--Moderator.

FBIS-

25 April 1956

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The FBIS group was interviewed by relays of ORR specialists who were informed of the area under discussion (USSR Regions XI and XII) and the product involved, Daily Reports and economic cards. Discussion and comment on the ORR exploitation of the FBIS products as well as guidance suggestions was invited.

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Below is a name and interest list indicating the range of material covered.

Comment on the FBIS product, particularly the economic cards, ranged from "of no use"--in the case of agriculture and electric power output where only the aggregate or total figures are of value, to "excellent"--in the case of solid fuels. The bulk of the comment fell into the middle ground with mention being made of the survey concerning the continuance or abolition of the Hokkaido Bureau. The support for the Bureau was quite strong, indicating in summary the overall value of FBIS products to ORR.

In addition to discussing at length the interests of the various consumers, mention was made regarding the poor legibility of the cards, although the time lag was mentioned only once. The practical effect of the 5 x 8 cards in aiding filing was praised.

Consumer appreciation was expressed regarding the "no details" editor's note as well as for the inclusion of the Russian words when doubtful or double meaning is encountered. The use of phonetic spelling did not reduce the usefulness of an item.

Panel Interview on USSR Requirements

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Coordinator:

ORR

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Control:

ORR

1.

general demographic, resources (Timber)
aggregates on Soviet agriculture, oblast or
higher level
electric power output, 25,000 kw plants or up

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2.

nonferrous metals production (particular emphasis
on the Magadan/Dal-Stroi area) all categories
from mine to refined product

ferrous metals output, steel requirements,
processes new plants, deposits, etc.

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- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 3. | <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 450px; width: 150px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> | solid fuels (coal, peat, etc.) economic cards
excellent
petroleum, region XII, all phases
petroleum distribution, storage |
| 4. | | ship construction
aircraft production figures
consumer goods industries
armaments production (movement)
(reading panel) |
| 5. | | medium machinery output, new plants
electrical (production) equipment, electronics
models, types, serial numbers, cable, wire,
meters.
switchboard, radios, TV, circuits
heavy equipment production, especially road
building equipment such as trucks, carry-alls,
tractors, etc. |
| 6. | | trade and finance, general and Soviet Bloc |
| 7. | | population and manpower |
| 8. | | communications equipment, coast, wired, voice
and telegraphic channels |
| 9. | | construction |
| 10. | | transportation see attached detailed targets |

Below is a comment and interest list submitted by one of the ORR panel. The nature of his interest is self-explanatory but is included as indicative of the extent of interest by ORR. The comments were jotted down as the interview progressed and handed to the FBIS representative after the meeting.

Hokkaido -- Reports have been too late.

- a. Diesels - Presence and performance
- b. Loco numbers - symbols
- c. Inland water coverage - facts and figures
- d. Summary performance figures
- e. Transfers at ports
- f. Rail Freight and types of cars
- g. Coal production - shipments

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- h. Construction, railroad
- i. Maintenance, railroad
- j. New port developments
- k. Figures - generally type tied to time and place factors
- l. Workers' successes involving locations, facts and figures
- m. Air services - ports
- n. Criticisms of rail and industrial performance
- o. Timber production and shipment items

AIR TARGETS

26 April 1956

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The system of the Air Targets Office was reviewed from the "Bombing Encyclopedia" down through data on individual plants and other air targets considered objectives in the event of the outbreak of hostilities. The method of using Air Targets publications was explained at length and the means of collecting and incorporating intelligence material in the various files illustrated.

There was no discussion of FBIS products but mention was made in response to a question of the "weakness" of data on Regions XI and XII and a general statement of praise made for the economic cards. An invitation was extended to return for a detailed discussion with working level area XI and XII specialists.

As a further aid to guidance, Air Targets offered to periodically survey samples of economic cards. The value of the Hokkaido material was indicated by support for the Bureau in terms of opposition to suspension of Bureau operations.

A return visit was paid to Air Targets on April 24 to discuss Hokkaido material with area specialists. While their projects are largely military matters and problems of logistics, the use of abstracts was extensive in terms of indirect information pertaining to their problems. In some cases there is no screening system for the area specialists and they look at all cards. The feeling was, however, that the personal screening effort is worthwhile and generally they spoke highly of Hokkaido material particularly in that much of it was unavailable from other sources.

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LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
AIR RESEARCH DIVISION, USAF

1 May 1956

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Air Research Division maintains a complete file of FBIS economic cards. No cards are rejected or destroyed. They are incorporated, along with other source material, into a geographic master file from which an analyst, studying a given area problem, will extract the entire area file and review all information available from all sources. An example of an area study of airfields showed that much FBIS material was successfully related to the problem of gauging airfield recuperation potential.

This office indicated unqualified support for the FBIS effort and stressed the value of Hokkaido material which for the most part was described as unavailable from other sources. No criticism could be obtained regarding the quality of selection or time lags and apparently the problem of legibility has not yet arisen. The analysts consulted were in favor of including the Russian words when dealing with technical or difficult to translate material.

An item worthy of further study dealt with the Social Science unit which handles political and demographic problems. This unit now screens FBIS USSR raw copy rejects. Their interest is in political affairs, Party, and government offices at the local level as well as almost all data on population, towns, and cities. At this very low level, the question arises as to whether this falls into the category of economic abstracts as presently operating. They have been able to obtain information suitable to their purposes from the raw copy screening and were interested in knowing to what extent such information could be enlarged. The suggestion was made that the matter be referred to the Liaison Office for further investigation.

The reproduction of the Hokkaido file carried out for ORR may also be of interest to the Air Research Division.

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